

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, August 20, 2015

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday, August 20, at 5:30 p.m. by Rick Swalwell.

Commission	Heather Schebel	Rick Swalwell	Forrest Ridgway	Mike Chambers	Joe Hrdlicka
Present	X	X	X		Arrived at 5:36pm

Staff	Susan Mathews <i>Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary</i>	Sally Ortgies <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Gary Scott <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>
Present	X	X	X	X

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Schebel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ridgway seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

Sukhen Chatterjee, 7740 Ashley Place, Johnston

As president of the Knights Cricket Club, Chatterjee gave thanks to the City of WDM for their partnership over the last 10 years growing the sport of Cricket in the Des Moines area. Chatterjee presented the Board with two plaques one for the City and one for the Parks & Recreation Department. Swalwell expressed appreciation for the recognition on behalf of the Board.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2015 Meeting

Ridgway moved to approve the minutes as presented. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 4. Old Business

No items.

New Business:

On Item 5A. Discussion – Reservation of Sports Fields

Scott gave background on the current policy to not reserve open space in Parks. Staff receives many requests for a guaranteed space to allow consistency for practices and games. Swalwell asked if the green spaces near City Hall that have been utilized by soccer groups in the past could be available first come first serve. Scott responded that they are currently available first come first serve. Councilman Trimble shared his experience as a coach in youth sports leagues and stated that finding a practice space can be very difficult. He also expressed concerns with allowing reservations. Hrdlicka expressed that the vast number of sports leagues, teams and practices could pose an issue. The possibility of a trial reservation process at one or two community parks and the associated costs and fees were discussed. Use of WDM Soccer Club and West Des Moines Rugby Club spaces when their own leagues, practices and games are not in session was suggested. Ridgway suggested leasing undeveloped property. Scott suggested that staff will continue discussions and research and will bring back more information in September.

On Item 5B. Discussion – Conservation Finance Feasibility Study

Scott noted that the survey is currently being designed. Staff will begin narrowing down the list of potential projects. Ridgway asked about availability of matching funds. Scott responded that the only possibility might be a REAP grant for a greenway trail. The types and specificity of questions being asked were discussed.

On Item 5C. Motion – Waiver of Alcohol Provisions – City Code – Valley View Park

Ortgies gave the Board background about a special event being organized at Valley View Park in September. She added that the Director of Parks & Recreation has the ability to allow sale of beer in cans up to 16 ounces for the event but the organizers have requested the ability to purchase beer in bottles which servers would pour into cups for serving.

Ridgway moved to approve the recommendation to City Council to approve the Waiver of Alcohol Provisions – City Code – Valley View Park. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Ortgies shared that Valley View basketball court design is complete and ordering construction will go to City Council for consideration on Monday. She added that the Ashworth Road trail contract has been awarded. Swalwell asked about the treatment of ash trees. Ortgies responded that treatment of all scheduled Ash trees has been completed.

On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen stated that the demolition phase of the Community Center renovation project has begun. He added that the next phase of Holiday Park baseball field renovations has begun. Hansen also shared that Holiday Park Aquatic Center will remain open August 29-30 and September 5-7.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Scott informed the Board that the Bicycle Master Plan Task Force will have their final meeting on September 14. He added that there will likely be one large workshop with City Council in late September. Scott shared that the City is widening Ashworth Road west of Jordan Creek Parkway and the Bicycle Master Plan map shows a buffered lane in that location that will also need to be discussed at the workshop. Scott noted that the consultant for the Trail Gateway Art project will be in West Des Moines next week for a tour and meeting. Scott has also been involved with the MPO committee that is working to develop a regional Water Trails Plan over the next 16-18 months. Scott reminded the Board that a representative from the Bicycle Friendly Community will be visiting West Des Moines on September 11.

On Item 7. Other Matters

Schebel shared that she has been approached by residents concerned about weeds in native prairie planting areas. Ortgies shared some information about the benefits of those plantings and the maintenance process. She added that Parks Maintenance staff is also doing renovation of some native planting areas that didn't establish well and may have more weeds than desired. Ortgies also shared that she has been receiving increased feedback from residents wanting to see conservation of areas to provide habitat for pollinators while reducing the chemicals the City uses which ultimately impact water quality. Hrdlicka thanked staff for cleaning up the I-35 trail underpass along Jordan Creek trail. Scott shared that the City Manager received an anonymous complaint about the greenway along Waterford Drive. Scott went to check on the issue the following day and the area had already been mowed by Public Works who was unaware of the complaint. Scott added that during his inspection of the area he discovered several encroachments on City property including play equipment, a garden, sheds and a couple of basketball courts. He added that one court is entirely on City property and that staff will need to get the issue sorted out. Swalwell shared that the Jon Anderson White Riverboat has found a home on Rathbun Lake.

Receive, File and/or Refer:

On Item 8A. City Council Communications

June 29, 2015: Amendment to City Code, Title 7 (Public Ways and Property), Chapter 11 (Park

Regulations) City Initiated; 1. Ordinance – Approval of First Reading
June 29, 2015: Public Hearing - Holiday Park Baseball Field Improvements-Phase 3: 1. Resolution - Approval of Plans and Specifications, 2. Motion - Receive and File Report of Bids, 3. Resolution - Approve Contract
July 13, 2015: Resolution – Approval of Reimbursement – Raccoon River Park Softball Complex Irrigation Improvements
July 13, 2015: Resolution – Order Preparation of Plans and Specifications – Raccoon River Park Softball Complex Irrigation Improvements
July 13, 2015: Resolution – Accept Work – Woodland Hills Park Site Grading and Utilities
July 13, 2015: Amendment to City Code, Title 7 (Public Ways and Property), Chapter 11 (Park Regulations) Restrict Parking within Parks to Designated Lots and Marked Stalls Only – City Initiated; 1. Ordinance – Approval of Second, Third Readings and Final Adoption
July 13, 2015: Resolution – Order Construction and Notice of Public Hearing on Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract, Estimate of Cost and Direct Advertisement of Bids – Ashworth Road Trail Extension – 58th Street to Prairie View Drive
July 13, 2015: Motion – Approval of Change Order #5 – Holiday Park Baseball Field Improvements – Phases 1 and 2.
July 27, 2015: Public Hearing – Ashworth Road Trail Extension – 55th Street to Prairie View Drive: 1. Resolution – Approval of Plans and Specifications; 2. Motion – Receive and File Report of Bids; 3. Resolution – Approve Contract
July 27, 2015: Resolution – Order Preparation of Plans and Specifications – Holiday Park Girls Softball Improvements
July 27, 2015: Resolution – Accept Work – 2014 Asphalt Trail Renovation
July 27, 2015: Resolution – Accept Work – Holiday Park Baseball Field Improvements – Phases 1 & 2
July 27, 2015: Resolution – Approval of 28E Intergovernmental Agreement for Teen Center at Rex Mathes School.

Ridgway moved to adjourn. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mathews
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Heather Schebel
Advisory Board Secretary